

COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE
COMPETITION AND PRIVATIZA-
TION ACT OF 1999

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, this bill is an important step toward legislation that will advance increased competition in the global satellite telecommunications market.

It is my fervent hope that we can complete action on this bill before Congress leaves this year, as I believe the Chairman has said he intends to do. The sooner Congress enacts comprehensive satellite reform legislation, the sooner we can let the private sector begin making decisions in this competitive marketplace. But as we move toward that legislative objective, it is important that we realize that certain issues must be addressed before we can declare such a victory.

H.R. 3261 is a good first step and I applaud the Chairman for bringing it forward. However, I do have concerns about the bill as it is introduced that I hope can be resolved as the process moves forward.

One distinct improvement is that the call for a fresh look, or the abrogation or modification of private contracts by the federal government, is not in this bill. But there remains in the bill another important issue known as Level IV direct access that still needs to be resolved. Level IV direct access would unfairly take value away from Comsat shareholders. I am very concerned that if this provision is not improved it will result in significant harm to Comsat shareholders. Similarly, Congress should simply repeal the ownership cap on Comsat without conditions, rather than making it contingent upon unrelated events as it does now in this legislation.

Other outstanding differences between the House and Senate must similarly be resolved in conference and I urge the Chairman and Ranking Democrat to work diligently to do so in a consensus manner. Notably, the privatization criteria should be made more flexible. Under the penalty of exclusion from the U.S. market, we should be very careful not to impose unrealistic privatization requirements that Intelstat will not be able to meet. Excluding Intelstat from the U.S. market could be extremely harmful to consumers everywhere. I fear that if that happened we would be "cutting our nose off to spite our face" because everyone, Intelstat users and their consumers, would lose. I urge that these issues be examined anew to ensure that U.S. consumers will not be harmed by any new restrictions imposed by this bill.

TRIBUTE TO DAISY BATES

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago we celebrated the Nine Black Americans who had the courage to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957, thus becoming known as the Little Rock Nine.

On the very same day that we gave the Congressional Medal of Honor to the "Little Rock Nine," the Nation was burying Daisy Bates, who had recently expired. Without Daisy Bates, I am not sure that there would have been a "Little Rock Nine." Mrs. Daisy Bates was the civil rights leader who helped the nine young people, nine young African Americans to break the color barrier at Little Rock Central High School.

In 1941, Mrs. Bates and her husband, Mr. L.C. Bates, founded the Arkansas State Press. They turned the weekly newspaper into the leading voice for civil rights in the State of Arkansas long before the decision was made to try and integrate Central High School.

As president of the Little Rock NAACP, Daisy Bates, was an inspiration, a spark and a symbol of hope for smaller chapters which were on line or being organized throughout the state and indeed, in many rural and semi-rural communities throughout the Nation. As the struggle in Little Rock intensified and as Mrs. Bates' profile emerged, she appeared as a regal, thoughtful and fiercely determined leader who made tremendous self sacrifices in order to keep the Little Rock NAACP and the Arkansas NAACP alive, viable and continuing to grow.

As the highest profiled African American leader in the state of Arkansas during that period of history, Daisy Bates performed exceptionally well under intense pressure. She was called upon for guidance, counsel, direction and overall leadership for a people.

She was indeed a mother figure, a big sister, a mentor and protector for the Little Rock Nine; but she was more than that, she was a Moses for her people, leading them into a new era of freedom in their quest for equality and justice.

Yes, Mrs. Daisy Bates, a pioneering freedom fighter, may you rest in peace.

CHRISTMAS STORIES

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, soon, the presidential staff will be busy readying the White House for Christmas. The annual lighting of the national Christmas tree is an event punctuated in Washington, DC by the official White House Christmas party.

My wife Maureen and I decided to attend last year and find out for ourselves what it's like at the executive residence. The splendor of the White House, decked with adornments of the season, seemed to dwarf the partisan divisions of politics and reminded guests of the historical significance of Christmas in America.

One of the most compelling American Christmastide stories took place during the Revolutionary War in 1777. One week before Christmas, General George Washington organized his Continental Army at Valley Forge.

Everything important to maintaining the Army was lacking—ammunition, clothing, shelter, blankets, footgear, and food. Washington was unsure whether they would freeze before starving.

When called to answer a small British column conducting foraging raids at nearby

Derby, the General urgently dispatched Congress; "... unless some great and capital change suddenly takes place... this Army must inevitably be reduced to one or other of these things. Starve, dissolve or disperse, in order to obtain subsistence in the best manner they can..."

The half-naked troops endured famine relieved only by sporadic supply deliveries. Washington fully expected mass desertion or open mutiny, yet the soldiers remained, resolved by their confidence in Washington himself. Washington's personal strength came from God.

A famous account of a Quaker named Isaac Potts emphasized Washington's reliance on prayer at Valley Forge. While passing through the woods near camp headquarters, Potts heard the Commander-in-Chief's voice in the forest.

Potts observed Washington on his knees in the act of devotion and interceding for the well-being of his troops and beloved country. Potts wrote, "... he adored that exuberant goodness which, from the depth of obscurity, had exalted him to the head of a great nation, and that nation fighting at fearful odds for all the world holds dear."

In orders later issued at Valley Forge, Washington told troops, "To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest Glory to laud the more distinguished character of Christian."

Col. John Laurens, the General's aide, wrote of "those dear, ragged Continentals whose patience will be the admiration of future ages." Indeed, to this day, Americans take great inspiration from Valley Forge. The Providential source of the troops' valor is a timeless lesson in faith providing further support for the message of Christmas.

First designated a national holiday in religious terms in 1789, presidential orders and Congressional proclamations have firmly restated the importance of Christmas ever since. Our nation's greatest leaders have always found inspiration in the hope of the Christ Child and the grace of God.

Thomas Jefferson chose among the works of Isaac Watts to be taught, in the District of Columbia schools, the Christmas carol, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let earth receive her king."

Benjamin Franklin wrote, "Let no pleasure tempt thee, no profit allure thee, no ambition corrupt thee, no example sway thee, no persuasion move thee to do anything which thou knowest to be evil. So shalt thou live jollily, for a good conscience is a continual Christmas."

This year, as Americans revel in the joyous wonder of Christ's birth, we all do well to recall the many examples of God's presence among us and His unmistakable answers to our prayers for liberty. May God continue to bestow His choicest blessings upon the United States of America, this Christmas and always.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. LOUIS RAWLS, PASTOR OF THE TABERNACLE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHICAGO, IL

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the Reverend Dr. Louis